

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
DATE: APRIL 10, 2025  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARDROOM

### CALL TO ORDER

Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Augustin, Brugger, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Pfeifer, Rosa, L. Skallerud

Absent: Anderson, McGeshick

Others Present: Tracy Ferraro, Melissa Grogg, Jamie Zarda, Melissa Ison, Kayla VanCleve, Danielle McLaughlin

### APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Augustin, second by Pfeifer to approve the agenda. All present voting, (AYE).  
Motion carried.

### APPROVE HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 13<sup>th</sup> MEETING

Motion by Goode, second by Brugger to approve the minutes from the March 13<sup>th</sup> Human Services Meeting. All present voting, (AYE). Motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

The board chair had some opening statements she wanted to make. She commended the directors and staff for their handling of the emergency response to the recent storm disaster. She also wanted to assure the board that family and personal issues would never be a conflict in her handling board duties. She stated she is unbiased when making decisions. She mentioned that there are some personnel issues that have come to her attention and should be handled as soon as possible in a closed session meeting.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION WITH KAYLA VAN CLEVE IN REGARDS TO ALICIA'S PLACE

Kayla has concerns about the MOU not being signed when it was previously set to be signed by January, and the department's attorney has already made the changes that were necessary. The director stated that the previous social services board had concerns about staffing level and the county's liability.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ON MOU WITH NEW HORIZONS

The department contracts with New Horizons for Mentoring and other services for juveniles and requested to sign the updated MOU. Motion by Goode, Second by L. Skallerud to approve signing the MOU. All present voting, (AYE). Motion Carried

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ON TRANSITIONING ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS TO FOREST COUNTY 1/1/2027

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The director says that the department is still paying a disproportionate amount to Oneida County compared to the small number of services that they are actually providing. Forest County is paying a 20% overhead for each program. She spoke with DHS about transferring additional programs and certification. Birth to 3 and CLT are mandatory services. The Health Department has already said they would take over Birth to 3 when it transitions over to Forest County. There are other services that are not mandatory and would be able to be absorbed by other programs within the department. Many programs are also reimbursable. The finance director suggested renegotiating the contract with Oneida County for 2026. Motion by Karl, second by Goode to have the finance director work with the attorney to renegotiate the contract with Oneida County for 2026. All present voting, (AYE). Motion Carried.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ON CRISIS BILLING

#### A. Billable Rate for Crisis Program

Since this is the first year for billing there is nothing to base fees off of. The finance director, R. Skallerud, N. Matuszewski, and T. Ferraro met, recommending to use Medicaid's max fee schedule and use actual costs from this year to reassess fees for next year. Motion by Pfeifer, second by Karl to approve the recommended rate as discussed by the finance director. All present voting, (AYE). Motion Carried.

#### B. Non-Billable Crisis Program

There was discussion on clients with no medical coverage, and if they should be considered self-pay or not to bill. This is something that may need to be reassessed when more numbers are available.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ON TRAINING REQUESTS

There are 2 upcoming trainings for the finance director. There is also a state conference for the Alzheimer's Association that the APS worker would like to attend in May. Motion by Pfeifer, Second by L. Skallerud to approve the trainings. All present voting, (AYE). Motion Carried.

### UPDATE DISCUSSION/ACTION UPGRADING TO PUSH TO TALK PHONES

The workers often go in to areas of the county where there is no cell service. There have been concerns of safety and how they would contact someone if something happened. Push to talk would allow them to use a satellite service so they could still reach someone in an emergency. This service would be \$29 for each phone and \$0.80 per month for the feature. Motion by Goode and Second by Pfeifer to approve getting push to talk for all the workers. All present voting, (AYE). Motion Carried.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ON ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITIONS

The department tried to combine the 2 administrative assistant positions, but being in different buildings, this was making it difficult for the workers who didn't have someone in the front office to help clients. M. Grogg will continue to switch offices every other day until a new administrative assistant is found for the Family Services office.

### DIRECTOR UPDATES

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- A. Fiscal- The budget is on track. No changes since last month.
- B. Case Loads-No changes to numbers. 26 in OHC
- C. Discussion on Family Services Response to the County Emergency- The department assisted the Health Department with cots and meas. The department also provided transportation for community members that needed it and did welfare checks on elders. The boy scouts did a fill the tent event right after the storm and made a huge donation to the food pantry which has allowed the department to help community members that needed to restock after the power outage.
- D. Digital Safety Task Force- Aspirus asked Family Services to participate in a task force to combat internet sex crimes, which are at a very high rate in Forest County. This will be a good opportunity to work with Aspirus and help protect the counties youth.

### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee scheduled a special meeting for 4/11 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Augustin to adjourn the meeting. All present voting, (AYE).

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.